

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AGR-05 AGRE-00 COME-00 STR-04

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ARA/ECP:ABERRY

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R 300205Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:EAGR, ETRD, HO

SUBJECT: 1976 MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM

1. AS OF SEPTEMBER 11, IMPORTS OF MEAT FROM HONDURAS

SUBJECT TO THE VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT AGREEMENT WERE 28,120 THOUSAND POUNDS AND REPRESENTED 78.5 PERCENT OF THE AGREED ALLOCATION OF 35,800 THOUSAND POUNDS.

2. ACCORDING TO A LETTER SENT TO THE U.S. CHARGE IN TEGUCIGALPA FROM THE HONDURAN ECONOMIC MINISTER DIAZ, HONDURAS WILL FILL THE VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT LEVEL OF 35.8

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MILLION POUNDS BY THE END OF OCTOBER. IN THE TWO WEEKS

ENDING SEPTEMBER 11, IMPORTS HAVE BEEN 653.5 THOUSAND POUNDS PER WEEK. THIS INFORMATION SUPPORTS THE PROJECTION PREVIOUSLY MADE BY MINISTER DIAZ.

3. FURTHERMORE, CUSTOMS' STATISTICS OF ENTRIES FOR CONSUMPTION DO NOT REFLECT MEAT WHICH HAS BEEN ALLOWED ENTRY INTO THE US UNDER IMMEDIATE DELIVERY CERTIFICATES- AT ANY POINT IN TIME, THESE CERTIFICATES REPRESENT APPROXIMATELY TWO WEEKS OF SHIPMENTS. IF THE RATE OF THE PREVIOUS TWO WEEKS (653.5 THOUSAND POUNDS PER WEEK) IS ASSUMED, THE AMOUNT OF HONDURAN MEAT SUBJECT TO THE VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT AGREEMENT CURRENTLY IN THE US IS APPROXIMATELY 29,427

THOUSAND POUNDS REPRESENTING SOME 82 PERCENT OF THE AGREED ALLOCATION.

4. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 3 OF THE 1976 AGREEMENT, THE EMBASSY SHOULD INFORM THE APPROPRIATE HONDURAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE THAT THE USG IS IN THE PROCESS OF ISSUING REGULATIONS TO PREVENT U.S. IMPORTS FROM HONDURAS FROM EXCEEDING 35.8 MILLION POUNDS DURING 1976. THESE REGULATIONS WILL IN NO WAY ALTER THE RESTRAINT LEVEL SPECIFIED IN THE AGREEMENT WE HAVE CONCLUDED WITH HONDURAS.

5. THE EMBASSY SHOULD RECALL CONSULTATIONS HELD IN TEGUCIGALPA SEPTEMBER 3 AND MAY IN ADDITION DRAW ON THE ABOVE AND MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- WE VALUE HONDURAS AS A RELIABLE SUPPLIER OF MEAT TO THE US MARKET.

-- FOR THIS REASON WE WERE EAGER TO CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT WITH HONDURAS FOR 1976 WHICH WOULD PERMIT A LEVEL OF OVERALL IMPORTS NEARLY 10 PERCENT HIGHER THAN THE LEVEL THAT WOULD BE PERMITTED UNDER A MANDATORY QUOTA IN THE ABSENCE OF A RESTRAINT PROGRAM.

-- WE HOPE THE GOVERNMENT OF HONDURAS WILL TAKE STEPS TO REGULATE SHIPMENTS IN A MANNER TO PREVENT THE HONDURAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESTRAINT LEVEL FROM BEING REACHED BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR. KISSINGER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** IMPORTS, AGREEMENTS, MEATS, IMPORT QUOTAS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 SEP 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** powellba  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE242736  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** JRICHARDSON:DE  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760369-1058  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t1976092/aaaaaaaxi.tel  
**Line Count:** 109  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN EB  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** powellba  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 JUL 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <16 JUL 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <26 OCT 2004 by powellba>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** 1976 MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM  
**TAGS:** EAGR, ETRD, HO  
**To:** TEGUCIGALPA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006